

# Every Member Counts

## SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD



## May Family Focus

Mission: Service Member & Family Support enhances and empowers the lives of our customers with consistently exceptional service & support.

### Service Member and Family Support

Phone: 1-800-658-3930

THE FOCUS IS FOR SERVICE MEMBERS & FAMILIES, VETERANS, RETIREES & SURVIVORS

IN THIS ISSUE

## May is Military Appreciation Month

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed May as “National Military Appreciation Month,” a time for all to honor, remember, recognize and appreciate those who have served in the past and those now serving, as well as their families.

“The vigilance of the members of the Armed Forces has been instrumental to the preservation of freedom, security and prosperity enjoyed by the people of this great nation,” the Governor’s proclamation states. “The success of the Armed Forces depends on the dedicated service of its members and their families.”

National Military Appreciation Month includes: Loyalty Day on May 1, Victory in Europe Day on May 8, Military Spouse Appreciation Day on May 12, Armed Forces Day on May 20 and Memorial Day on May 29.

“It is certainly fitting to dedicate a month to consider all of the ways that members of our armed forces both past and present have earned and preserved

our American way of life,” said Adjutant General Timothy Reisch, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of the Military. “We also honor in a special way, the many contributions and tremendous support of our military family members without whom our service would be impossible.”

The days provide an opportunity to honor, remember, recognize, and appreciate those who serve and have served. These men and women continue to play a major role in the development of our country documented through a history of uncompromising honor, dedication to duty and genuine love of country, according to South Dakota Veterans Affairs Secretary Larry Zimmerman.

“The month of May provides a great opportunity to remember, honor and pay tribute to our nation’s heroes – heroes who set aside their personal safety to defend and protect their family, their community and their nation from those who would threaten our way

of life,” said Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. “These men and women step forward every day to train, fight and defend our freedoms.”



2017 South Dakota Military Youth Camps registration

Pages 6-7



Story and program information

Disclaimer: The announcements that appear on this page(s) or attached are intended to inform Soldiers, Airmen, veterans, and their families of special offers provided to Service Members, veterans and their families and are not intended to constitute an endorsement by the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard, the United States Army, the United States Air Force, or the Department of Defense. It is strictly intended to be used for informational purposes only.



May 12, 2017

Honoring the 153rd  
Engineer Battalion  
and their families.

Please wear a red shirt  
to show your support!

Please take a moment to complete a survey to help Service Member & Family Support (SMFS) increase our efficiency and the effectiveness of the services we provide.

We recognize our customers, you, have very diverse preferences and needs.

By asking you what those preferences and needs are, we can provide pertinent information on resources in a manner that you wish to receive it.

Please take a few minutes to answer these questions honestly and provide any additional feedback to help US serve YOU better.

Hyperlink to Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCPLXHL>



## 2017 Service Member Family Support State Family and Youth symposium

Was host to three international speakers who connected with the audience on an emotional level by sharing personal stories of determination, challenges, family support and triumph through adversity against overwhelming odds.

Opening the symposium with "Zap the Gap!" was Meagan Johnson. She helped us navigate the challenging generational waters and embrace a multigenerational workforce. Johnson, a generational expert, gave the audience a chance to not only laugh at their own generation (and the other ones) but flourish in the presence of others.

"No matter the generation or where an individual is in life, the skills being taught at the symposium are applicable in our personal and professional lives," said Maj. Quenten Johnson, deputy director SMFS. The adult trainings gave the attendees some methods to be able to set and accomplish goals, effectively communicate across generational gaps, and to have resilience as life sets them back.

In separate age appropriate training sessions, youth and adults learned how to recognize destructive behaviors such as bullying and sexual assault. The trainings looked at both the face to face and the emerging social

media context of preventing / protecting ones family from these destructive behaviors. "This training can also roll over into an individual's work life in identifying and preventing an unhealthy workplace" said Johnson. "This year's symposium has two facets: First we are teaching how to identify and prevent destructive behaviors within the family. Second we are looking at setting and accomplishing goals as a family and personally."

Trav Bell, the Bucket List Guy, challenged the audience to live their bucket list before it's too late. According to Trav, "A bucket list is a tangible life plan...where our careers should fit into our life plan and not be the other way around." Many people start to compile their bucket list when they get bad news, and feel they only have a short time to live life to its fullest. "Why wait," he challenged the audience, "aren't you worth living your bucket list now?"



The keynote speaker, Melissa Stockwell, kept them on the edge of their seats. Stockwell served our country as a very proud member of the U.S. Army in Iraq, where she nearly made the ultimate sacrifice. She was the

first woman to lose a limb in active combat and for her services to our country, she was awarded the Bronze Star & Purple Heart. Since then she has turned herself into a World Champion athlete, in fact a three-time World Champion who once again proudly represented her country as a member of Team USA at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing, China. And again, just a few months ago at Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, where she won the Bronze Medal in a USA sweep in the sport of Para triathlon. She is the co-founder of the nonprofit sport group 'Dare2Tri' through which she has helped hundreds of other people living with disabilities not only return to sport, but more importantly build confidence, self-esteem and renewed passion for living.

By the end of the symposium it was evident the training provided was not only for personal development, but professional development and was selected to challenge people to make positive change in their lives.

Watch for the dates and locations for the 2018 Family and Youth Symposium to be published in early July.

The award ceremony during the symposium brought together more than 100 adults and youth where volunteers who support our military members and families were recognized.

### **Guard Family of the Year Award:**

(ARMY) The Ernster Family, Matthew, Stacy, Dylan, Adison, Braden, and Braxton.  
(AIR GUARD) The Vanderwolde Family, Ed, Deanna, Nicole, and Brooklyn.

### **Volunteer of the Year Award**

(ARMY) Jennifer Kranz FSC 147th FA  
(AIR GUARD) Melva Hilmoie

### **Military Member of the Year Award**

(ARMY) SFC Paul Mausbach, HHC 139th BSB  
(AIR GUARD) CMSgt Jeanne Gacke

### **Extra Mile Award (Retiree)**

(ARMY) Bill Hoffman FSC 153rd EN

### **Unit of the Year Award**

(ARMY) 155th EN Co. Rapid City & Wagner  
(AIR GUARD) Rising Six

### **Youth Volunteer Award:**

Trevor Bartunek, Youth Council

### **Youth Development Volunteer Award:**

(AIR GUARD) Blake Parke

### **Family Program Community Purple Award**

Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 of Brookings



# HEALTHY COMMUNITIES | NEED HEALTHY MINDS

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION | MENTAL HEALTH | SUICIDE PREVENTION

# mind your health

6TH ANNUAL

## Mental Health Awareness Day

**Thursday, May 18, 2017**

Main Street Square  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.,  
Movie Begins at Dusk

- Free Food
- Speakers
- Inflatables for the kids
- Free movie "INSIDE OUT" sponsored by Dr. Manlove Psychiatric Group and presented by Movies Under the Stars
- Beverages provided by Coca-Cola Bottling Company of the Black Hills

### Performances by:

ARKITECT & LADY HOPE • ATEYAPI DRUM GROUP  
BEAR PROJECT • TAKE ACTION

*Come share your thoughts*  
on our traveling comment wall!

### 2017 AWARENESS DAY EVENT SPONSORS

ADDICTION RECOVERY CENTER  
BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS  
BH HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS, VA  
BUDDY CHECK 22  
CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES  
CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY  
CITY COUNTY ALCOHOL & DRUG  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER  
COMPASS POINT  
ELLSWORTH AFB MENTAL HEALTH  
FRONT PORCH COALITION  
HELPLINE CENTER  
LIFEWAYS  
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES  
NAMI SOUTH DAKOTA  
REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
SERVICE MEMBER SUPPORT OF SD  
SIOUX SAN MENTAL HEALTH  
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES





## APPLICATION

### 2017 South Dakota Military Youth Camps

#### The Amazing Race<sup>3</sup> - Storm Mountain

June 26-30

(Campers ages 9-11 / Junior Counselors ages 15-17)

#### Explore - TBD

July 24-28

(Campers ages 12-14)

#### For Camp use only

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Cash /Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Application Complete \_\_\_\_\_



- \*\*\* The Amazing Race<sup>3</sup> Camper applications (page 1) to be submitted by June 9, 2017  
 \*\*\* The Amazing Race<sup>3</sup> Junior Counselor applications (page 1 and 2) to be submitted by June 2, 2017  
 \*\*\* Explore Camper applications (page 1) to be submitted by July 7, 2017

- Camp Attending:     The Amazing Race<sup>3</sup>     Camper      Junior Counselor Applicant  
    Explore    

- Transportation requested from eastern SD along I-90:      Yes      No

YOUTH NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Male      Female      Age (as of June 1<sup>st</sup>) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size (adult): S M L XL First time camper: Yes No

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: Daytime: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### MILITARY MEMBER INFORMATION (as listed in DEERS):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Camper: \_\_\_\_\_ Currently Deployed: \_\_\_\_\_

- Priority given to legal dependents/stepchildren of a SD military member or retired member, as listed in DEERS.
- Military youth who are a grandchild, sibling, niece/nephew, etc. of a SD military member will be placed on a waiting list with attendance confirmation provided within a week after the registration deadline.

1. **Application:** Please make sure application is filled out completely and signed where indicated.
2. **Registration Fee:** Legal dependents/stepchildren in DEERS \$60.00  
 Grandchild, sibling, niece/nephew, etc. \$200.00  
 No registration fee for Junior Counselors at The Amazing Race<sup>3</sup>

Registration payable to: SD Military Camps Send to: Taryn Broomfield, SDNG LCYPC  
 2823 W. Main St. Rapid City, SD 57702

I certify that I am the legal parent/guardian of the child listed on this application.

\*I grant permission to the South Dakota Military Youth Camp to approve emergency medical treatment for my child.

\*I give permission for the release of my child's name and address to be provided to fellow campers and staff for the purpose of future communications. It will not be sold or distributed for any other use. I grant the South Dakota National Guard and SDSU Extension the non-exclusive and irrevocable rights and license to make, edit and use pictures/videos of my child in print, electronic and projection for educational and promotional purposes. I release the above from any and all claims of payment for performance rights, residuals or damages for libel, slander, invasion of privacy, or any claim based on the use of said material.

\*I hereby waive any claim against the South Dakota National Guard, the Department of Military Affairs, the South Dakota National Guard Service Member & Family Support Office and/or Youth Program and contract employees, SDSU Extension, the State of South Dakota, or the United States of America, for any causes which may arise in connection with the participation of the below named child in the South Dakota Military Youth Camp.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Child's name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Parent / Guardian) Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

Page 1 of 2

**Junior Counselor Application (ages 15-17)**  
**South Dakota Military Youth Camp: The Amazing Race<sup>3</sup>**  
**Storm Mountain**  
**26-30 June 2017**

If you are applying to be a Junior Counselor, please complete the youth camp application (page 1), as well as the following:

<b>Position Description:</b>	<b>SD Military Youth Camp Junior Counselor</b>
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**Purpose:** This is a volunteer position. The junior counselor will be responsible for assisting the camp counselors in implementing activities for five days of summer educational and recreational programming in a camp setting under the leadership of the Camp Director, the Child & Youth Coordinator(s), and SDSU Extension.

**Camp Description:** The five days of educational and recreational programming will involve 100 or more 9 to 11-year-old youth from throughout the state of South Dakota. The youth eligible to attend camp are those who are children, grandchildren, siblings or legal dependents of South Dakota military members and retirees. The camp program will promote respect, friendship, leadership, teamwork, military customs and courtesies, as well as building self-esteem and self-confidence.

**Responsibilities:**

- Attend any camp training and meetings as requested. Junior Counselors will be provided with appropriate training information for camp.
  - Be a role model by enforcing, supporting, and following camp rules and policies.
  - Assist camp counselors in leading campers in day-to-day camp activities provided in the activities schedule.
  - Locate and prepare supplies for each camp activity as requested.
  - Must stay at camp during the week.
  - Select and teach campers military cadences, camp songs, and ice-breakers.
  - Assist Camp Director and Child & Youth Coordinator(s) by providing feedback about overall camp experience.
  - Other duties as assigned.
- I have read and understand the above requirements for a Junior Counselor and agree to follow them. I understand that this is an application process and that only 12 junior counselors will be selected for participation in camp.

Junior Counselor Applicant SIGNATURE

Parent / Guardian SIGNATURE

Date

Please list two adult (non-family) references. By listing these references, you are giving permission for us to contact them regarding your ability to be a junior counselor:

Name:

Name:

Relationship to You:

Relationship to You:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

Address:

Address:

*Have you previously been a junior counselor at Youth Camp?*

*Have you previously been a junior counselor at any other camps? If so, please describe:*

*Please tell us about your qualifications as a junior counselor. Please use additional space if needed.*



# WARRIORS

## ★ NEVER GIVE UP ★

Warriors Never Give Up (WNGU) kicked off our 2017 mission of changing the lives of our nation's heroes through our outdoor adventures in February by hosting our first-ever ice fishing event south of Bristol, SD. "Heroes on the Hardwater" is the brainchild of professional walleye angler and WNGU board member, Dan Geiken. Dan's passion for the outdoors uniquely aligns with our vision of giving back to our nation's heroes and his enthusiasm has spread like a wild fire within the community of professional walleye anglers and guides.

The simple idea of giving back to those who have sacrificed so much and the generosity of time given to us by our passionate partners and volunteers makes our events special, rewarding, and life-changing. This amazing God inspired event was courtesy of land owner, Robert Duerre, who knows the sacrifices our nation's heroes have made, as he proudly served during the Vietnam War.

"Heroes on the Hardwater" began the day before as our volunteer guides pre-fished Duerre slough south of Bristol, SD in hopes of finding a honey hole that would put our hero participants right on top of the fish. After punching several holes, fishing, and scanning our private oasis for that perfect spot, most of the volunteer guides settled on a small piece of property south of the slough. Houses were set up for our heroes, who would arrive the following day.

Sharing a common bond for the outdoors and its natural affinity for healing, our 10 combat Vietnam veterans and one Gold-Star brother of a Vietnam hero along with our volunteer guides departed for the ice in a caravan of excitement, past a sea of American flags as co-founder Brett Bastian saluted our heroes in honor and appreciation. Each beautiful flag, powered by freedom, and the early winter breeze, waved in harmony as our "hero" fisherman and guides settled in for a memorable day. With our veterans comfortably in their ice shacks waiting for the next strike, board members, Dan Geiken and Troy Fox, started the BBQ tantalizing those close by. The others remained in their shacks tending their lines, as they enjoyed delivery service of hot, off the grill lunches. The afternoon hour was filled with conversations and friendly fishing competition, with plenty of fish being caught by all. As the sunset drew near, Dan Geiken, Troy Fox, and some of the volunteers cleaned fish as our nation's heroes gathered around to share fish tales for the day and the common bonds that unite them. As the group departed for the Webster VFW, for an old fashioned fish fry, a solitary flag remained as a reminder that days such as these are celebrated by courage of those brave few that were willing to fight and defend it.

This simple idea of giving back that began over prayer and coffee has spread like a wild fire to become a recognizable volunteer non-profit veteran service organization that we take pride in. Since its inception, we have humbly served over 300 Veterans and their families with no plans of stopping. With God in control, along with our diverse and passionate Board of Directors, our amazing volunteers, and our generous sponsors and partners, I believe the sky is the limit to what can be accomplished.

An amazing adventure of faith, hope, renewal, change, and healing awaits all involved. Join our Warriors Never Give Up team and let's change the lives of our nation's heroes one outdoor adventure at a time.

We have 8 other events set for this year. Visit our website at [www.warriorsnevergiveup.org](http://www.warriorsnevergiveup.org) at the bottom of the page you can sign up for our events.

Brett Bastian, Co-founder

Troy Fox, WNGU Board Member

WarriorsNeverGiveUp.org



# Did you know?

The **Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) Program** serves Active and Reserve Component service members of **ALL** branches of the military **AND** Veterans who have dedicated themselves to serving our nation, often at great personal sacrifice. The program's principal role is to provide direction to Reserve Component service members so that they can secure all benefits, entitlements, and services earned through their military service with the compassion of someone who's been there.

You may not need assistance at this time, but you may have a friend or family member that could use some assistance.



Common services provided are:

- Requesting Military Service records
- Enrollment into the VA Healthcare
- Counseling on Education Benefits
- Supporting deploying and returning units
- Employment
- Tricare
- State specific benefits
- Navigating local, state and federal programs

I am a current service member in the SDARNG, an OEF-Afghanistan veteran, former full-time Soldier, education counselor and will put to use my skills and relationships to ensure your needs are met.

Contact your TAA today at  
605-737-6669 or  
[christian.m.johnson.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:christian.m.johnson.ctr@mail.mil)

## May Family Focus

Service Member and Family Support  
South Dakota National Guard

2823 W. Main St, Rapid City SD 57702

1-800-658-3930



We also recommend that you like and follow us on [Facebook](#) as we continuously update new and exciting information.

Have suggestions of thing you would like to see in a future issue of the focus?  
Please contact us!